



ITEM:

PAGE: 1

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 2 MARCH 2010

SUBJECT: CULLEN, DESKFORD & PORTKNOCKIE HERITAGE GROUP

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to consider a request from the Cullen Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group for free use of the Memorial Hall in Cullen Town Hall to operate a temporary heritage centre throughout June, July and August 2010.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section 20 of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to relief from charges.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee considers waiving the fee for use of the Memorial Hall within Cullen Town Hall for a three month period June, July and August 2010.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Cullen Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group (CDPHG) are currently looking to establish a permanent base from where it can exhibit a permanent heritage display, hold meetings, undertake administrative work and store its growing collection of unique historical records and artifacts.
- 3.2 The Group currently meet in Cullen Community Centre on a monthly basis and have a small display area in the foyer as well as dedicated use of one PC within Cullen library. Larger artefacts are stored in a single garage located behind the Community Centre. The damp conditions are causing the artefacts to deteriorate significantly. The remainder of resources, artefacts etc are stored at members' homes causing problems with insurance, logistics, health and safety, damage and loss.
- 3.3 CDPHG have been actively involved with the community and other organisations by giving talks and presentations and setting up heritage displays for events. The Group have been involved in heritage-based initiatives, most recently participating actively in the Moray Connections initiative and joining the Masons Mark Project of the Aberdeenshire Council. The Group already presents a busy open weekend every summer and last years Homecoming event, held during a week in June, attracted over 1500 visitors.

- 3.4 CDPHG are looking to enhance and expand the service they provide to the local community and to ex patriots seeking their origins. The Group believes that the heritage centre will complement the work of Cullen Tourism Initiative who occupy a room, at no charge, within Cullen Town Hall directly opposite the Memorial Hall during the summer months. It is envisaged that the heritage centre will attract visitors to the area and contribute to tourism income in the local community.
- 3.5 This request to use the memorial hall in Cullen Town Hall is the first step in the plans to secure a permanent heritage centre. The group wishes to use the facility on a trial basis during the summer in 2010 with a view to requesting more permanent use should the trial prove to be a success.
- 3.6 Attached as **Appendix 1** is a business plan for Cullen Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group which sets out in greater detail the need for permanent premises.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The proposals contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement of the Community Planning Partnership with the Scottish Government in respect of the 'Outcomes' allocated to the 'Wealthier and Fairer' Group and the stated priorities of the Council's Plan for 2008-2011 in relation to the economy, jobs and tourism. The proposals will contribute to the Council's priorities of economic development and tourism.

(b) Policy and Legal

none

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The normal hire fee for the use of the Memorial Hall during this period would be £1800.

(d) Consultations

Due to time constraints related to the preparation and submission of this report the only consultation carried out has been with the Libraries and Museums Manager who is in agreement with the terms of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 **That the Committee considers the request for free use of the Memorial Hall in Cullen Town Hall from Cullen Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group to operate a temporary heritage centre throughout June, July and August 2010.**

ITEM:

PAGE: 3

Author of Report: Marian Ogg, Assistant Resources Officer
Background Papers:
Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Policy & Resources Committee/2 March
2010/Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group

Signature: _____ Date : _____

Designation: Director of Educational Services Name: Donald M Duncan